

Application No. 10/711,717  
Response dated December 12, 2006  
to Office Action mailed November 29, 2006

**AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION**

Please replace paragraph [0008] with the following amended paragraph:

[0008] FIG. ~~4A-1~~ is a simplified block-diagram of a processing system for forming a passivated metal layer according to an embodiment of the invention;